

# SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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## IN THE SOUTHEAST.

### What the People are Doing in Other Counties that are Near.

The blessings of prohibition flow freely at Fredericktown. The News relates:—On last Monday a young fellow living in the Henry House on Maple avenue got some booze under his skin and proceeded to disturb the community by loud talking and hostile demonstrations. A warrant was secured for his arrest but as yet he has not been apprehended. On the same date Lou Edwards and Fritz Prokop got in the way of the strong arm of the law for disturbances and warrants are out for them. Wednesday night at the city council meeting Alderman Spickerman while considerably the worse for liquor called City Treasurer Ferguson an offensive name and as a result has been carrying a disfigured eye every since. The next day some difficulty arose between Joe and S. S. Andrews. Mr. Andrews was considerably bruised up and Mr. Reel went to the police judge and paid a dollar fine for assault. On this Monday old man Burleigh and wife of College Hill had a disagreement and scrap and the old fellow was arrested. His wife claims he is crazy and that he burned up \$400 after soaking in coal oil. Alfred Buckner was arrested yesterday and is now in jail. The origin of his trouble was his receipt on Tuesday of something over a gallon of booze.

Cape Tribune.—Morris V. Harris, cashier of the Blodgett bank and William D. McBride, head bookkeeper of the B. F. Marshall Merc. Co. at Blodgett, are named as defendants in a \$20,000 damages suit filed yesterday morning in the Circuit Court of Stoddard County at Bloomfield, by Howard Levan. The suit is the outgrowth of a horse-whipping Levan suffered several months ago by a party of "night-riders." The suit was filed for Levan by Oscar A. Knehan, U. S. Referee in Bankruptcy, and Senator Thomas F. Lane, as his attorneys. The petition was sent to the Bloomfield clerk Wednesday night and filed early Thursday morning. A group of several men in Blodgett beat Levan with water-soaked ropes after they had taken him from his home. Levan was accused of about Blodgett of window peeping. Levan denied the charge and invited a prosecution of himself on that charge. He alleges that Harris and McBride are members of the party that performed the horse-whipping. Before the suit was filed, Knehan made an investigation of the circumstances in Blodgett, to obtain the names of witnesses and obtained evidence.

L. R. Johnson of the Cape Normal tells how to store apples in the ground. "Dig a shallow trench a few inches deep, and line it with a little straw or leaves. Make trench about three feet wide and pile in apples up to a sharp ridge. Cover them with a coating of straw or leaves and then a thin layer of earth. Every six feet lay a tuft of straw stick out at the top of the ridge for ventilation. When time for very cold weather comes, say in December, throw on more earth till apples are covered too deep to freeze. This is all that is required to keep apples safely all winter, but it should be understood that only sound apples should be stored, otherwise they will not keep."

Charleston Enterprise.—Lon Adams, deputy constable of St. James township, was in Murphysboro, Illinois, and witnessed the orgies connected with the hanging of the negro, De Berry. He bears out the truth of what has been printed in the papers concerning the hordes of highly cultured Illinoisians who made a holiday of the hour in which the life of a debased negro was destroyed.

Justice of the Peace L. O. Grosch of Randless got his "foot in it" in buying out A. M. Mead, a Randless mechanic just before Mead went into bankruptcy. Ed Regenhart, trustee in bankruptcy of the Mead estate, filed suit to set aside the deal, but the matter was compromised by Mr. Grosch paying an additional \$500 and part of the costs.

R. A. and Wm. J. Shans, father and son, were shot and killed by Oscar Paxton, son-in-law of the elder Shans. The tragedy occurred at a country store below Hornersville in Dunklin county. Only recently Pemiscot county seemed to have a "corner" on this feature of our higher civilization, but it seems to be spreading. People are so happy and contented under capitalism.

East Prairie Eagle.—A petition was circulated here asking the officials of the Iron Mountain and Cotton Belt railroads to re-establish the incline at Birds Point. Similar petitions are being circulated in every town in Southeast Missouri along the lines of these roads and when the Cairo Business Men's Club meet with the officials in St. Louis these petitions will be presented.

A man who talks to himself hears a lot of compliments.

In relating the murder of L. H. Pritchett near Deventer, in Mississippi county, last week, the Kicker got this affair mixed up with another affair a week or so previous in which the body of the dead man was found in a drain ditch. These events are so common in our christian civilization that it requires care to separate them. Pritchett was about 20 years old, and the son of a farmer, and had been keeping company with the 17-year-old sister of Ole and Steve Reeves who learned that he had been "talking about her." Pritchett and his father were at a store at Deventer and Devo Ross asked the young man to go out and have a chat. They went out behind the store near a shed in which the Reeves brothers were hiding and Ross began a conversation about the girl. Presently the brothers emerged and beat Pritchett to death. At first the brothers and Ross were held under ten thousand dollar bond each, but after indictment by the grand jury they were placed in jail and held without bond.

Campbell Citizen.—Saturday afternoon Homer Littoral, Jim Gaines and H. Dunivan, about 15 year old boys were in Campbell and instead of walking home, concluded to board a freight train and jump off at the nearest town. The boys were in Campbell and instead of walking home, concluded to board a freight train and jump off at the nearest town. The boys were in Campbell and instead of walking home, concluded to board a freight train and jump off at the nearest town.

The fiftieth anniversary of the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Kies was celebrated at their home at Jackson October 22, with their 12 living children present. Mr. Kies was born in Germany in 1837 and came to America in 1852. Mrs. Kies was born in upper Austria and came here with her parents as a child. Mr. Kies was a school teacher and Lutheran minister and in 1867 organized the Lutheran church at Jackson and was its pastor. In 1886 he began the publication of the Volksfreund, a German paper that is still being published by his two sons—to which they have added an English publication, the Jackson Items.

Near Jackson Henry Peetz, wife and baby were riding in a wagon. The horses became frightened at a motor cycle, the wagon was overturned and Mr. Peetz and wife were thrown over a fence into a field, while their baby was caught by its clothing on the wire fence and hung there, absolutely unharmed. It was a remarkable escape all around.

Charleston Republican.—Claude Sterett was mistaken for a burglar by his brother-in-law Thursday night and came near losing his life when Roy Strickland fired at him through the front door of his residence, shattering the door panel and the bullet passing within six inches of where Claude stood. Some one had been prowling around the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Strickland on Wednesday night and when Claude came on the night following and was unlocking the front door, Roy thought of the night before and took a shot at him with the above results.

Say, boys, don't shoot craps. It's agin the law. If you must gamble, bet a million on the rise close of Randless got his "foot in it" in buying out A. M. Mead, a Randless mechanic just before Mead went into bankruptcy. Ed Regenhart, trustee in bankruptcy of the Mead estate, filed suit to set aside the deal, but the matter was compromised by Mr. Grosch paying an additional \$500 and part of the costs.

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#### THE BANKERS MEET.

I am getting to be more interested in the meetings of bankers and ministers than I used to be, because I understand them better. The closer one watches, the more plainly it appears that it is they who govern us. The conference of Methodist divines recently held at Stikston was honey-combed with bankers. At the meeting of Group Six of the Southeast Missouri Association of Bankers, I noticed that "divine services" played a conspicuous part, and that the banquet was held in a church instead of the club room, as usual.

Christ drove the money-changers from the temple. Today the money-changers again occupy the temple. They have gained all the ground lost to the early Christians—and then some! The proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Clopton, a protestant divine. I noticed that the Catholic bankers present did the pious act and chimed in. The reason I noticed this so particularly I will explain.

Some years ago the farmers union became very strong in this county and an effort was made to organize the Catholic farmers. But the priests fought it and no great headway could be made. However, when it became evident that some of the Catholic farmers were going to organize anyway, one of the priests went in as a charter member and if I remember correctly, was elected president of the local. His purpose was to get on the inside and control it. But he was not a farming man and was in no way eligible to membership. The county union wouldn't stand for it, and he was "excommunicated."

Being then on familiar terms with the priests, I inquired for the reason of their opposition. They gave two reasons. One was because the organization was a secret one, and the other was because of the religious features of it. "It has nothing to do with religion," I ventured.

"Oh, yes, it has. They have a chapel, and our people are not allowed to listen to, or take part in, protestant prayers." That settled it. While I did not agree, I could say no more. I knew the teachings of "the church" that it was a sin to be present at a protestant services or marriages—both being classes as infidelity.

And when I read of so many Catholic bankers from this and other counties being present at the protestant prayer meeting of bankers at the Cape, I wondered why this "religion" didn't apply to bankers as well as farmers.

At the bankers meetings all is harmony. There are no Democrats, no Republicans, no Catholics, no Jews and no Protestants. All are bankers—after the "long green." The divisions of creed, sect or politics are for the common herd to quarrel over while their pockets are being picked.

And it works fine. Thirty years ago there was but one bank in the territory of which Group Six is composed. That was the old Sturdivant Bank of Cape Girardeau. Now there are 142. And what do these banks produce—except poverty for the masses? A bank plays the same part to a community that a tick does to a dog. It is a parasite.

"The rise of the banking business has been coincident to the development of the land in this part of the state," said one of the bankers. That is the truth. The banks have absorbed the wealth as fast as labor and nature produced it. Didn't Arthur Lesner, a banking expert, admit it before the Industrial Relations Commission? He said the ANNUAL increase of the wealth of the banks was equal to the combined wheat and corn crops of the nation!

THE "ESTIMATES." The reliability of political organs, when discussing political matters is amusing. The Cape Republican gave the number at the Democratic rally at the Cape at 2,000. This is probably 500 below the mark, which is not bad for a Republican paper. The Tribune, which had boosted the meeting and, therefore, wanted to exaggerate its own influence, made it 5,000. That and so bad—for it is well understood by newspaper men that the organ of the party interested multiplies by at least two. But our local organ, sixteen miles away, swells the crowd to 7,000, while the Bloomfield Vineyard, 30 miles away, makes it 10,000.

#### IT WORKS FINE.

The present industrial and commercial system works fine—for those in the saddle. It is a little rough on those under the saddle, but they don't count. They are only the poor, with whom Jesus associated.

Last week, at a gathering of Illinois Baptist preachers, who claim to be followers of Jesus, a resolution was introduced denouncing militarism and the clamor for military preparedness. Put the alleged followers of the Prince of Peace wouldn't stand for it and voted it down.

But that isn't what I set out to explain. What I want Rube to get in his noodle is the fact that the rich get up the wars for the profit they get out of them, while the poor have nothing to do but stop the battles. In olden times, before the days of public education, rulers would quarrel and the masses would be set at butchering each other in the name of religion. The Armenian Christians and Mohammedan Turks are at it today. The bible is full of how God commanded the old tribal chiefs to slaughter their neighbors for plunder!

But most people can read now, and most people understand that it is not God, but greedy capitalists, that bring on the wars. The puppets who act as kings, Kaisers, emperors and presidents for the ruling class still try to make us believe that God is responsible for the wars, but many people know better, and others are learning. They laugh at a president setting aside a day of prayers for peace and at the same time demanding safe passage for our ammunition ships.

But what I want to impress on Rube is this: In time of war the government confiscates your liberty and often your life. It takes you from your home and loved ones and sets you up as a target for the enemy's shot and shell. That is what your government does when it wants MEN.

But how different it is when your government wants MONEY! It never "drafts" or confiscates the money of the banker. Oh, no! That would be immoral and dishonorable. In fact, it would be contrary to all precedent. Money is "sacred." You may call it the root of all evil, but the Pious Ones are not afraid of being contaminated by it.

When the government wants money to carry on war, it does not say to the financiers, "Come on with it; your country is in danger. If you refuse, you will be shot for treason." No, your government don't talk to the financiers as it does to you. To get money for emergencies, your government gets on its knees and asks for the best terms. If Mr. Patriotic Banker considers it a "good investment," he names his terms, and your Uncle Sam gets up off his knees, hugs the banker and gives him a mortgage on the labor and property of yourself, your children and your children's children forever and ever, amen!

This mortgage is called government bonds, is exempt from taxation, and secures the payment of the loan and interests to the good banker, his heirs and assigns forever, amen!

Now, Rube, the next time you walk six miles to vote for this ask yourself why the government cannot confiscate the money of the banker in defense of the country as well as the liberty and the lives of the working class? You cannot escape the conclusion that this must be so because the banker IS THE GOVERNMENT.

FARM TENANCY. From the Milwaukee Leader. Those men who are just over the dead-line of industry in age, can easily remember when "Uncle Sam" was rich enough to give us all a farm. Thousands can recall the days when "homesteads" were handed out like advertising dogtags at a country fair.

Now 37 per cent of all the farmers in America are tenants. Nearly half the remainder live on a mortgaged farm. In the south the percentage is still higher, reaching 95 per cent in the rich delta lands of Mississippi. Everywhere the same general rule prevails, that the bigger the income for any given crop per farm, the more farms are rented. It is the best cotton land, the best wheat land, the highest priced land everywhere that is passing into the hands of the landlords. The explanation is simple. The poorer land will not support two families. There is no surplus value for the landlord.

#### STILL AT IT.

About 50 to 80 men, would-be nightriders, made a raid on Tallapoosa, seven miles south of Panama, Thursday night, and threatened to deal roughly with several of the citizens. It seems that all they were out for was a little exercise, as no damage was done, and they only required the citizens taken in charge to lead the bunch and forced them to wade a little water; threatened and then turned them loose. They did not reveal the reason for their visit, but apparently were out for fun. It is reported that they fired thru several tents along the track—Panama Courier.

Let no one imagine that these "night-riders" were out for fun. They have a grievance, and the Kicker regrets to hear of these outbreaks—the natural result of class government. Yet we may expect to hear of many more another crop time. I look for this winter to be even worse than last—although bumper crops are reported from every section.

These outbreaks are the result of unjust conditions and ignorance. The robbed and starving farmers strike at individuals instead of the system. They are getting exactly what they vote for, and the grand jury of the master class WILL GET THEM.

Grand juries are always composed of the master class. And while such grand juries are seldom able to see anything wrong in what members of their class do, they forget out and even magnify the slightest misstep of the working class.

When you hear of a federal or circuit court grand jury that is composed of the working class, let me know. The great majority are always "business men"—landlords, bankers, merchants and so on.

HOW ABOUT THIS? In the light of modern sociology and economics we know positively that drink is not responsible for all the evils of life; to the contrary we see that the drink evil—the abuse of alcoholic beverages—is, to a very large degree, a product of modern industrial methods.

"We are living at a high speed. In every department of life the cry is speed, speed and yet greater speed. The easy-going life of our forefathers has departed, apparently, for ever."

"The European immigrant, accustomed in the old country to the leisurely life of the continent, is caught up in the whirlpool and goes to excesses undreamed of at home."

"Take conditions in some of our West Virginia coal mines, for example, where the cry for tonnage and still more tonnage drives the men to tasks at which a horse would balk."

"The truth is, he is driven by low wages and the pace of the system to excesses for which he surely is not wholly to blame. Let us put the blame mainly where it belongs—let us put it ON THE SYSTEM."

#### ALL THINGS SAVE ONE.

From the Milwaukee Leader. Rulers will do all things save get off the backs of their subjects. Toletol said this many years ago. Every hour since has proved its truth. Labor asks for higher wages, shorter hours, better guarded machinery, opportunity for leisure, and education. But more than any of these and all of these, it needs and must have liberty and the right to rule its own life.

It is this demand that sets Socialism apart from all reform measures. So long as the capitalist can be "master of his own house" he will concede much. He will build parks, schools, museums. He will establish "foundations," and pour out charity. But these things must be handed out as he wishes them.

Here is where Socialism parts company with the reformer, the philanthropist, the social secretary, the welfare worker. Here the doctrine and the bigger fact of the class struggle pushes all these aside.

In a strange society the class that has owned the essentials of production of wealth has ruled. Sometimes these essentials were canoes and hunting grounds. Sometimes they were broad estates and high castles.

Today they are the great machines in the shops—the engines, turbines, wires, wheels, telephones and multitudes of instruments with which the work of the world is done.

Those who own these have no need of work. They have no need of brains. Harry Thaw in Montana was gathering wealth faster than any wage worker in the steel mills of Pittsburgh.

To hold this place upon the backs of the workers, all the lines that carry impressions to the minds of the masses are watched and manipulated. The pressings praise the enterprise of owners. Statesmen write laws to protect ownership. Poets and patriots praise the government that protects ownership and stamps as treason any effort to divert that state from the task of crushing those who would revolt against the robbery of the propertyless by the propertied.

While class rule remains, all else is secure. There may be times when the owners will find it advisable to be good to their subjects. It is more than 2,000 years since Roman rulers learned that the surest way to retain mastery is to feed and amuse their slaves.

Socialism strikes at the root of mastery. It demands a working-class ruling itself, educating itself, directing its own institutions, and preparing to rule society. It demands that the workers get off our backs—not that they put cushions under the saddle and jingle bangles before our eyes.

FARM CREDITS. From the Milwaukee Leader. A convention is meeting in Chicago this week to discuss the question of relief for the farmer. It proposes to devote much of its time to a consideration of farm credits. This is only one of a large number of similar gatherings—all of which are trying to find a way to lend the farmer more money.

#### ABOUT RAILROADS.

By Carl D. Thompson. Private ownership of railroads is the most gigantic system of plunder that ever existed. In the first place, the people of this nation, by excessive and sometimes fraudulent land grants, bonuses and bonds, gave the railroads enough to build the whole systems entire. Then followed the construction frauds, watered stock frauds, mail frauds and a whole train of plundering processes known only to the masters of high finance.

Today the railroads plunder the workers by low wages, long hours and impossible burdens. They plunder the people by excessive rates. Every article of food we eat, or clothes we wear, and everything we use costs more because of the excessive railroad rates.

The railroads cost the people of this country \$3,171,000,000 every year. Which means \$158-50 of every family for the railroads alone—one-quarter of the entire cost of living of an average family.

And yet they are about to raise their rates. Not satisfied with their enormous profits, they still seek more. And they will get it. For fifty years our politicians and statesmen have told us that the railroad problem could be easily solved and would be solved by "regulation." Yet to this day not one problem has been solved by that method.

Meanwhile nearly every important nation has established public ownership of railroads and found it a very satisfactory solution of the problem. Of the 73 nations in the world today, all but nine own all or considerable proportion of their railroads. Twenty-three great nations own and operate over 95 per cent of their mileage.

And everywhere the results are the same—rates are reduced, the service is improved, labor is better treated, and the nations get the profit to use for the common good.

If the Socialists controlled Congress, the nation would very shortly own the railroads. The national value of the railroads of the country, according to estimates based upon findings of the interstate commerce commission, is about \$15,000,000,000. Now, it is not necessary that the government should take over the whole system at once. It could buy enough of the voting stock to get control. The rest would be easy.

But suppose we bought out the whole system. We would not need to borrow the whole amount since in our government banks, and through our income and inheritance taxes, we would already have a considerable proportion of the necessary funds. But I suppose the government should borrow the whole \$15,000,000,000. The interest on the loan at 2 per cent would be \$300,000,000. But the railroads' net income over and above all expenses is \$737,667,000. (Interstate Commerce Commission Report of 1912, p. 42). So we could pay the interest on the loan and have \$437,667,000 left—every year.

So under public ownership we could raise wages, make them \$100 a year to every employee in the country, from the section hand to president of the road, just as a "starter." That would only require \$100,000,000 per year. We would still have \$337,667,000 left.

Next we could reduce rates so as to reduce the cost of living. Let \$100,000,000 go for that. We would still have \$237,667,000 left. Next let us set aside \$100,000,000 yearly as a sinking fund to pay off the original debt when it came due. We would still have \$137,667,000 left.

With that \$137,667,000 we could buy up the next utility; raise wages in that industry; shorten hours, improve conditions reduce the cost of living; and use the remaining profits to buy the next utility. And so the Socialist program would proceed from one utility to the next until the nation owned them all. Every step in the process would make the next one easier. And this socialization would go on steadily reducing the profits until there were no profits. It would go on until the profit system itself was gone—till all unearned incomes were abolished—till exploitation and robbery were completely and finally at an end.

FIGHT ON AND ON.

Every day furnishes fresh proof of the rapid growth and spread of the ideas we represent. On all fields there is tumult and unrest! The dawn of a fair day is drawing nigh with mighty strides.

Let us then ever battle and strive forward unconcerned as to "where" and "when" the boundary-posts of the new and better day for mankind will be raised.

If, in the course of this great battle for the emancipation of the human race, we should fall, those now in the rear will step forward we shall fall with the consciousness of having done our duty as human beings, and with the conviction that the goal will be reached, however the power hostile to humanity may struggle in resistance.

Ours is the world, despite all—that is, for the workers and for woman.—August Bebel.

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.